



Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

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Maine

*Dept. of Marine
Resources,
State Planning Office*

Massachusetts

*Coastal Zone
Management,
Executive Office of
Environmental Affairs*

New Brunswick

*Dept. of Environment and
Local Government,
Dept. of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Aquaculture*

New Hampshire

*Dept. of Environmental
Services,
Office of State Planning*

Nova Scotia

*Dept. of Environment and
Labour,
Dept. of Agriculture and
Fisheries*

Federal Partners

*Dept. of Fisheries and
Oceans Canada,
Environment Canada,
US Army Corps of
Engineers,
US Environmental
Protection Agency,
US Fish and Wildlife
Service,
US National Oceanic and
Atmospheric
Administration*

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment & The National Marine Fisheries Service Award \$250,000 for Habitat Restoration Projects

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Conservation organizations in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts will put approximately \$250,000 to good use restoring coastal habitat thanks to a grant from the community-based restoration partnership program between the Gulf of Maine Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The goal of the partnership is to restore habitats that benefit living marine resources, including anadromous fish species, in the three states using a strategic approach.

"This partnership represents an opportunity to undertake habitat restoration within a regional context," says Elizabeth Hertz of the Maine State Planning Office. "By focusing on shared resources, we will be able to multiply the benefits of the individual projects beyond their respective geographical location and strengthen the ecological systems within the Gulf."

Funds from NOAA Fisheries were awarded through NOAA's Community-Based Restoration Program to support grass-roots efforts to restore critical fisheries habitats in the Gulf of Maine. Staff from the NOAA Restoration Center, NOAA Fisheries northeast region and various state agencies work closely with communities to develop and implement projects. Community volunteers participate in restoration activities, monitor and maintain completed projects which promotes stewardship and a heightened appreciation for the environment.

"The Community-Based Restoration Program has proven to be a catalyst for habitat restoration throughout the Gulf of Maine," says Pat Kurkul, Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries Northeast Office. "Restoration projects enhance habitats that are critical to building sustainable commercial and recreational fisheries and promoting the recovery of many threatened and endangered species."

Non-governmental organizations, municipalities, schools, tribal and state governments are eligible to apply. Thirteen funded projects for 2001-2002 include: Sebasticook River Channel Restoration submitted by the Town of Newport, Maine, Quivett Creek Salt Marsh and Fish Run restoration submitted by the Town of Dennis, Massachusetts and Wiswall Dam Removal submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental services.

The Gulf of Maine Council fosters cooperative actions within the watershed to preserve our common heritage and encourage sustainable resource use. An agreement was signed in 1989 by the Governors and Premiers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Canada to form the Council. Every five years, an Action Plan is produced to guide the member jurisdictions in their work to protect the Gulf's resources. This Partnership and grant recipients will further the Council's goals related to habitat restoration. For more information about the Gulf of Maine Council, visit <http://www.gulfofmaine.org>

The NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program has been working with community organizations since 1996 to support effective habitat restoration projects in marine, estuarine, and riparian areas. The program works by providing seed money and technical assistance, which is leveraged at the national and local level to promote significant, locally-driven restoration projects. For more information on NOAA's Community-Based Restoration Program, visit the following web site:
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration>.

NOAA Fisheries is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources through scientific research, management, enforcement and the conservation of marine mammals and other protected marine species and their habitat. To learn more about NOAA Fisheries, please visit <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>.